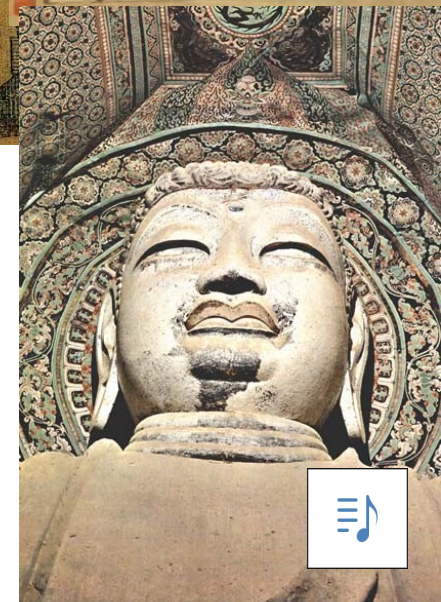
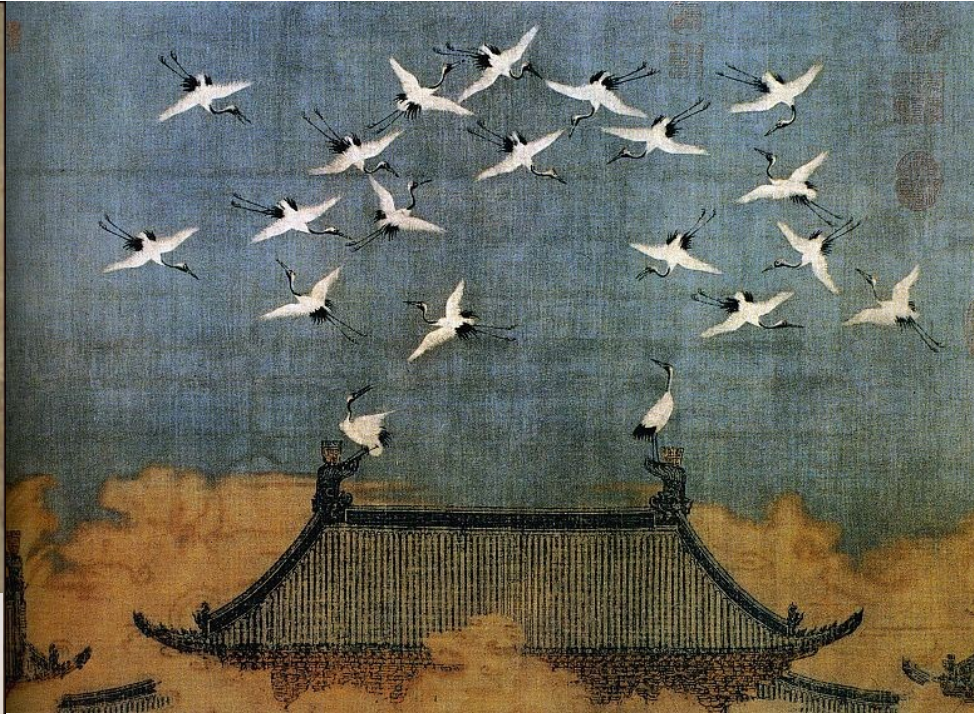
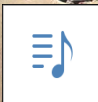


ANCIENT ASIA:: HIS 219

UNIT EIGHT



To accompany
A History of Asia
Chapter 8,
China: A Golden Age



Medieval Asia Timeline I

- **China:**
- **206 BCE - 220 CE: Qin Dynasty** Unifies China, brings culture, Buddhism becomes popular, esp. "Pure Land" sect.
- **515:** Attacks of the *Huna* (the Huns) in NW India causes
- **220 - 586: Six Dynasties Period**
- **589 - 618: Sui Dynasty** attempts to restore centralized state.
- **618 - 907: Tang Dynasty** / as a result of uprisings, pleasure, examination system, unified law code, landscape painting.
- **907 - 1279: Song Dynasty** / Muslim invasions from Afghanistan led by Mahmud.
- **960 - 1279: Song Dynasty** / Muslim state in NW India. Rise of Neo-Confucianism.
- **1279 - 1368: Yuan Dynasty.**



Map of Han Dynasty (206 BCE to 220 CE)



After the Han... a chaotic period of multiple kingdoms called the Six Dynasties period, after the six major kingdoms in this period, about 220-586.



Asia in 500 CE: two of the most powerful Chinese states were the Wei and Qi Dynasties



Post-Han dynasty, Buddhism takes roots in China.
One popular Buddhist deity is the gender-bending Kuan-Yin.

- Kuan-Yin was originally an Indian Mayahana Bodhisattva, Avalokitiśvara, “he who listens kindly,” introduced into Chinese Buddhism around 400.
- In China, this gentle, kind male deity became a female over time, and then one of the most popular deities in all Chinese religion. She was worshipped not only by Buddhists but Taoists and others



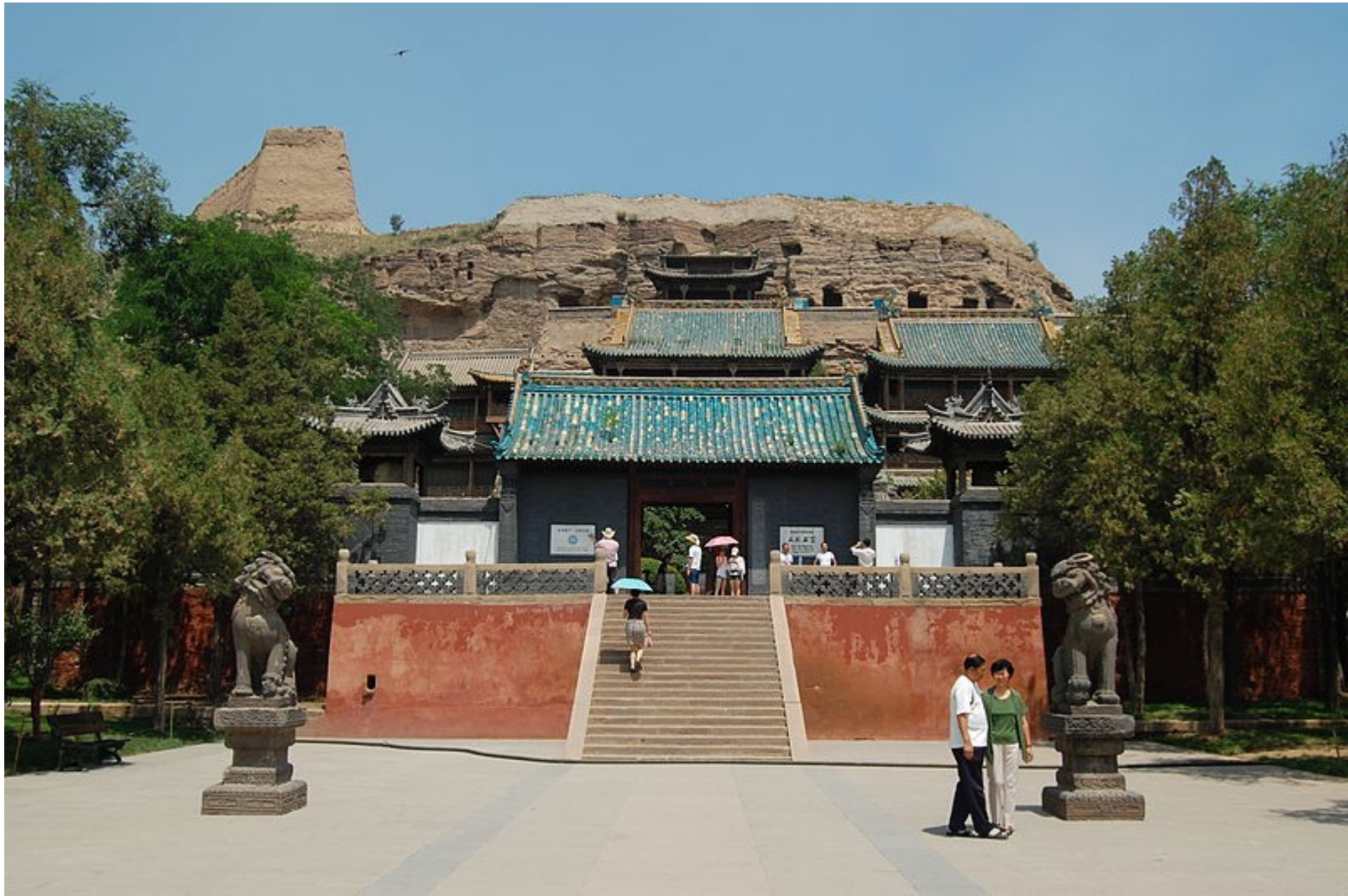
In Japan, Kuan-Yin is known as *Kannon*. In Vietnam, s/he is known as Quan Âm Nghìn Mắt Nghìn Tay (Quan Am with 1000 eyes and 1000 hands).



During Northern Wei period, Buddhist cave temples created at Yungang in N. China, similar to Ajanta in Gupta India and also in about same time period, the 5th-6th centuries.



Yungang rock-cut temples, entry



Yungang rock-cut temples and Buddhist art



Yungang rock-cut temples and art



Other Buddhist Art of Wei Dynasty, 5th-6th centuries



Image of Emperor Xiaowen (ruled from 467-499) and his court (Northern Wei Dynasty). He introduced the “Equal-Field” system of land distribution.



Cultural Continuity amidst **Political Chaos**

- During the almost unending strife in early medieval China, prior to restoration of political unity under the Sui and T'ang Dynasties, certain cultural elements helped to maintained order and unity.
- 1. Confucianism as ideology emphasizing respect for social hierarchy and education
- 2. Chinese language and writing
- 3. Trade and economic links.



Map of Sui Dynasty (581-618 CE)



Major Korean Kingdom, Koguryo (Goguryeo) (37-688 CE),
defeated the invading Sui Dynasty in early 600s and so paved
way for T'ang Dynasty, which would invade Koguryo!



Map of T'ang Dynasty (618-907 CE), with massive expansion in all directions, including Central Asia and the northern part of Korea. Golden Age of culture. Some consider this *the* peak period of Chinese civilization.



Trade routes during the T'ang Dynasty



http://jacksonbbrown.com/ss/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/silkroad_products.jpg



Empress Wu: Wu Zhao or Wu Zetian, (624-705), ruled 660-705 in various ways.



- Wu Zhao is one of the most famous women in Chinese history. She rose from being the concubine of one T'ang emperor, Taizong, to the lover of his son, the emperor Gaozong, then his favorite, then his queen, and then after his death, the sole ruler. Attempted to create own dynasty, the Zhou. This lasted 690-705, with Wu as Empress. After her death, the T'ang was restored.

Art of the T'ang Dynasty
Beauties Wearing Flowers,
painting by Zhou Fang (c. 730-800 CE)



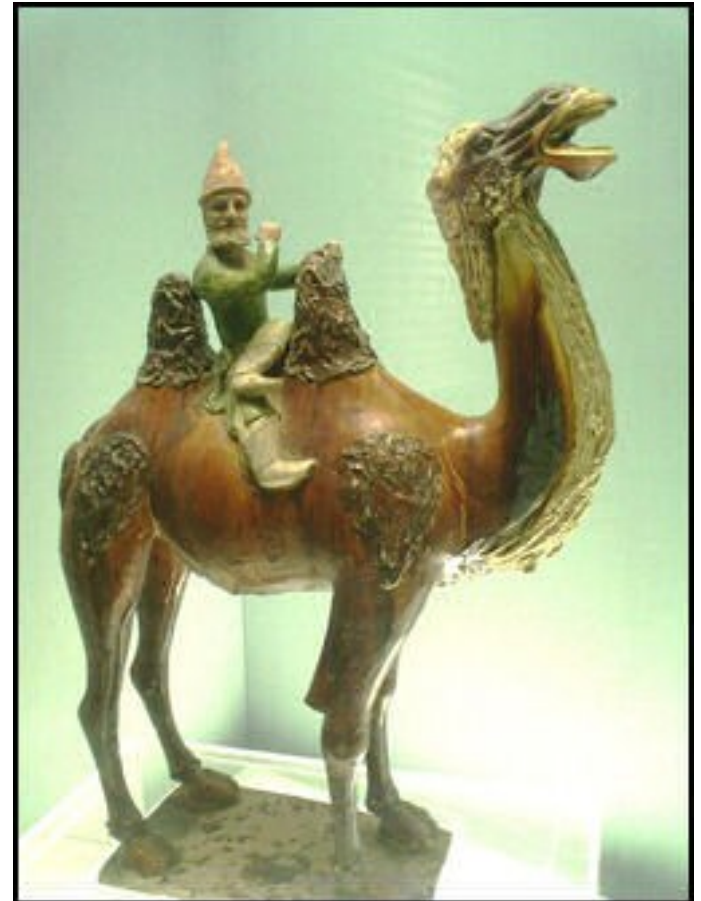
Portrait of a T'ANG court official



Tomb guardian statues



The importance of trade with Central Asia and Muslim lands further west was reflected in art, such as this image of a camel, the favored workhorse of the trade routes.



Horses were another favorite theme.



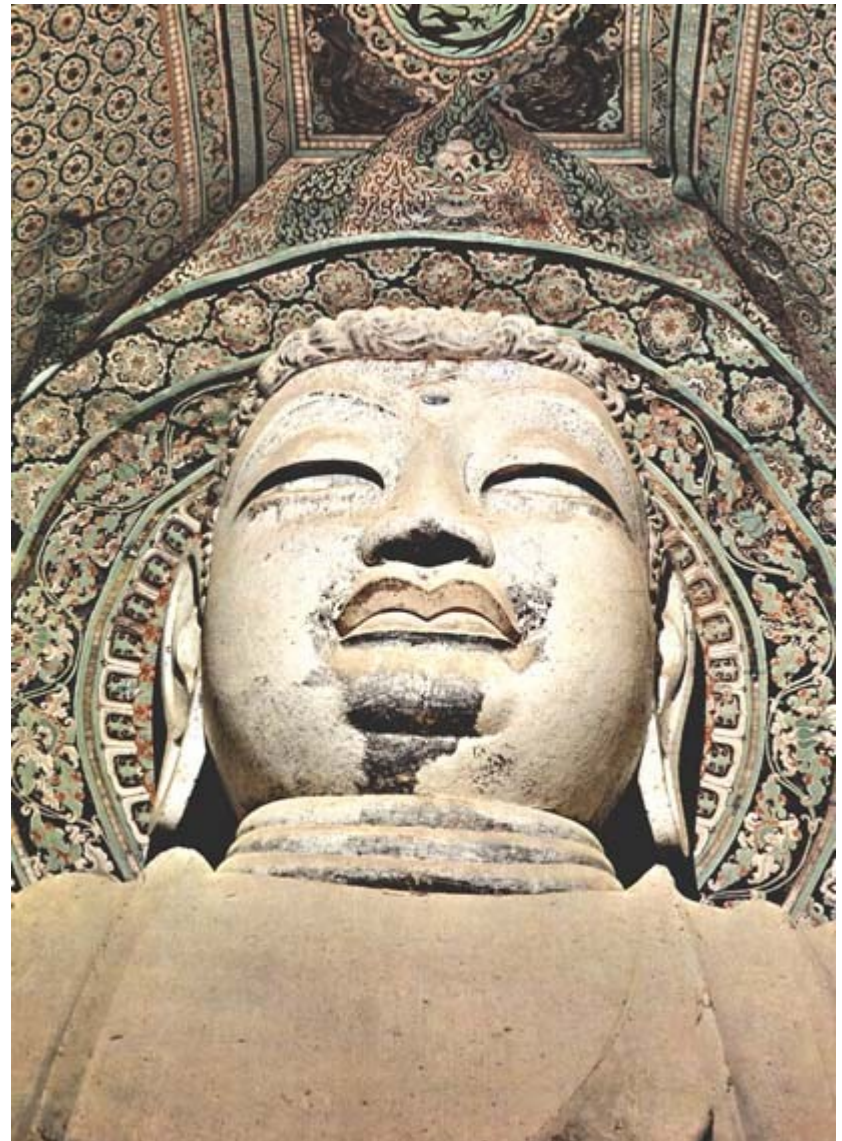


Night Shining White, T'ang Dynasty circa 750 CE.

Han Gan (Chinese, active 742–56). Handscroll; ink on paper. In style of *baihua* (white painting), a term used in T'ang texts to describe monochrome painting with ink shading, as opposed to full color painting.

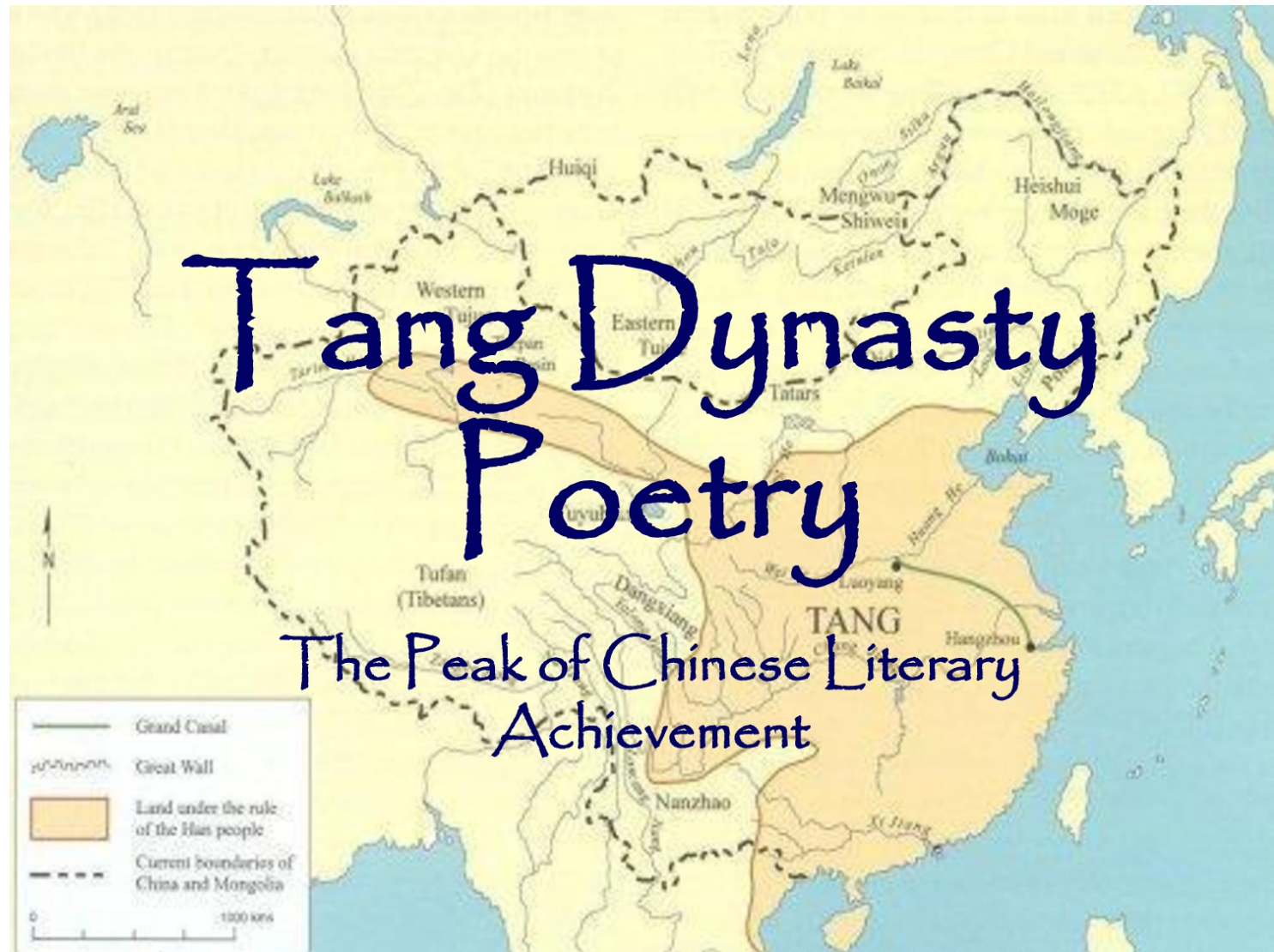


T'ang Dynasty Kuan-yin figure and a giant Buddha statue from Dunhuang Cave



Poetry of the T'ang Dynasty at this site:

<http://www.docstoc.com/docs/17318623/Tang-Dynasty-Poetry>



About T'ang Poetry

from <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/17318623/Tang-Dynasty-Poetry>

In the Tang Dynasty, the composition of poetry came to be used in the examination by which intellectuals entered government service. Because of this, poetry became an integral part of social life, a medium of basic social exchange. Perhaps nowhere else in the world has lyric poetry ever occupied such a central position.

- Tang poetry addressed important social and ethical issues. This is what the poets considered to be the primary function of poetry.
- Tang poetry spoke of personal matters—for some it was almost like a diary

All of the surviving Tang poetry is the product of the



Li Po
701-762
The Romantic Eccentric

Called the “banished Immortal” by his contemporaries, Li Po wrote poems that are known for their unrestrained emotion, deep appreciation of people, and love of nature. His poetry reflects Taoist tendencies.

- Dialogue in the Mountains
- You ask me why I lodge in these emerald hills;
- I laugh, don't answer—my heart is at peace.
- Peach blossoms and flowing waters
- go off to mysterious dark,
- And there is another world
- not of mortal men.
- Translated by Stephen Owen



Tu Fu
712-770
the Confucian Moralist

Often called China's greatest poet, Tu Fu wrote poems reflecting his political commitment, his social concerns, and his love of family.

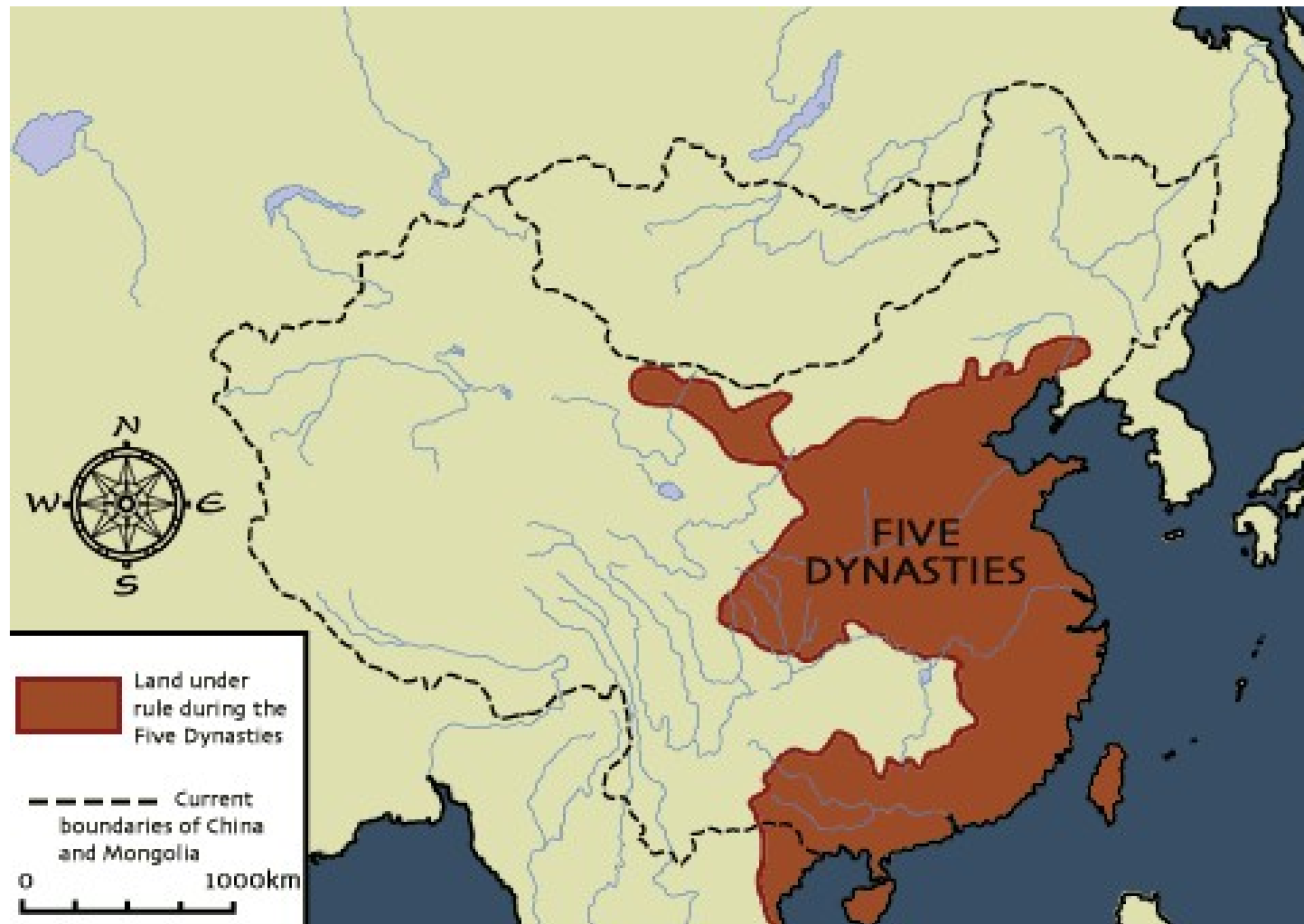
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- Spring View
- The nation is ruined, but mountains and rivers remain.
- This spring the city is deep in weeds and brush.

- Touched by the times even flowers weep tears.
- Fearing leaving the birds tangled hearts.
- Watch-tower fires have been burning for three months
- To get a note from home would cost ten thousand gold.
- Scratching my white hair thinner
- Seething hopes all in a trembling hairpin.
- Translated by Gary Snyder



Five Dynasties Period (907-960 CE)



An Lushan Rebellion: BBC Program

- **The An Lushan Rebellion**
- Duration: 45 minutes First broadcast: Thursday 16 February 2012
- Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the An Lushan Rebellion, a major uprising against the imperial rule of the Chinese Tang Dynasty. In 755 AD a senior general, An Lushan, orchestrated a plot.... The An Lushan Rebellion displaced millions of people and killed many more...
- The An Lushan Rebellion (755-763) permanently crippled the T'ang Dynasty and led to its collapse. Listen to a discussion of this event on the BBC at:
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01by8ms>



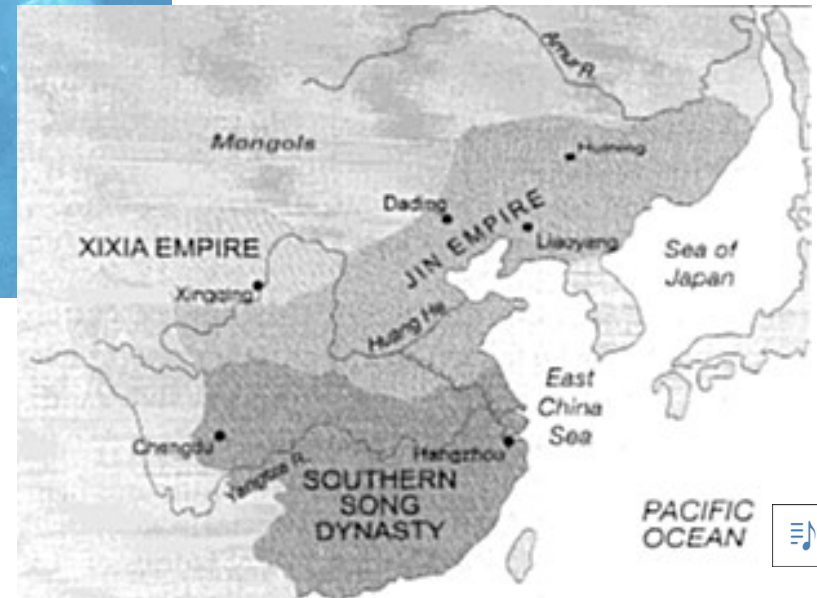
Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127)







Song Dynasty lost further territory in the north, thus later dynasty is referred to as the *Southern Song Dynasty*.



Landscape painting reached new heights in the Song Dynasty. A Taoist sense of the mysterious power of nature is quite evident.

Here, **Summer Mountains**, 11th century.

Attributed to Qu Ding (Chinese, active ca. 1023–ca. 1056)



More Song Dynasty paintings of landscapes and nature scenes



Song Dynasty painting in the Litang style illustrating the theme "Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism are one". Depicts Taoist Lu Xiuqing (left), official Tao Yuanming (right) and Buddhist monk Huiyuan (center, founder of Pure Land) by the *Tiger stream*. The stream borders a zone infested by tigers that they just crossed without fear, engrossed as they were in their discussion. Realizing what they just did, they laugh together, hence the name of the picture, *Three laughing men by the Tiger stream*.



Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1280)



Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty (1279-1368)



Map of Mongol Empire (including Yuan Dynasty) (1279-1368)



Bye-Bye Mongols, Hello Ming!

Ming Dynasty in China (1368-1644)



End of Unit

